Central team to Andhra Pradesh to study the plights of weavers

433. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

SHRI RUMANDALA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Union Government sent a Central Team to Andhra Pradesh to study the plight of the weavers following the spate of recent suicides;

(b) if so, the details of the report of the said team in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to solve the problem of the weavers and also to provide financial help to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir, two high level teams of the Ministry of Textiles visited Hyderabad and Sircilla in Andhra Pradesh to assess the situation.

(b) and (c) Discussions were held at the field, district and State levels regarding the action to be taken to improve the lot of the weavers. Accordingly, after discussions between the Central and State Governments the following main recommendations were made for:—

(i) Technological upgradation of looms in the cluster;

(ii) Provision of linkages for yarn procurement, product development and marketing, including export;

(iii) Provision for training and other extension support for upgradation; and

(iv) Provision of yarn at more affordable rates.

The Government of India has already taken action as follows:—

(i) To supply yarn in Sircilla through NTC as an interim measure.

(ii) Staff has been deputed to begin the Extension Counter in Sircilla.

(iii) A Team has been sent from the South Indian Textile Research Association (SITRA) to provide technical assistance to the above Extension Counter.

(iv) The Powerloom Export Development Council (PEDEXCIL) has taken action for the enrollment of members to set up a Powerloom Centre Development Committee (PCDC) in Sircilla.

Losses of JCI

434. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has been incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the reasons for the losses; and

(d) the details of steps taken to improve the performance of Jute Corporation of India particularly in assisting the Jute growers and creating adequate marketing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Jute Corporation of India (JCI), Kolkata has been incurring losses since 1977-78.

(c) The main reason of the accrued loss has been the fact the JCI has to conduct Minimum Support Price operations on behalf of Government of India for procurement of raw jute. Since, MSP operations are not conducted every year, huge work force and infrastructure of JCI adds to the loss.

(d) The Government strengthened the JCI by providing budgetary support and by providing bank guarantee to the tune of Rs. 33 crores